GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:441
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
LAND LINE AND MOBILE PHONE SERVICE
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is facing any problem in providing land line and mobile phone service at Tehsil level in the Tribal and Naxalite affected areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to provide land line and mobile service in the aforesaid areas;

(d) whether it has been decided by the Government that Telephone Exchanges would not be set up in placed from where income receipt is low;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government has formulated any time bound programme to make land line and mobile phone service available in the Rural, Tribal and Naxalite affected areas of the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 441 FOR 27TH APRIL, 2005 REGARDING LAND LINE AND MOBILE PHONE SERVICE.

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In some of the circles, Naxalite have burnt down/completely damaged telephone exchanges and same could not be restored. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is making efforts to provide services to these areas wherever law and order situation permits.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable in view of Para (d).

(f) Yes, Sir. Time bound plans have been made.

(g) BSNL has planned to provide 14 Lakhs and 1.27 lakhs telephone connection in rural and tribal areas respectively of the country on land line/WLL during the current financial year. BSNL has also planned expansion of its country wide mobile network including the tribal dominated states such as Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, North East etc. by an additional capacity of 14 million lines to take the capacity to around 23 million by year end. These plans also include development of Naxalite affected areas wherever law and order situation permits.

In addition, the following activities have been undertaken by the Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund in the rural areas.

(i) Provision of subsidy support for Operation and Maintenance of existing about 525000 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the villages identified as per Census 1991 to M/s BSNL and Six Private Basic Service Operators.

(ii) Subsidy towards provision of VPTs in the remaining 66,822 uncovered villages in the country to BSNL

(iii) Subsidy support for replacement of 1,86,642 VPTs which were earlier working on Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology and installed before 1.4.2002 to BSNL.

(iv) Subsidy support for provision of 46,253 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in those villages with population exceeding 2,000 and without a Public Phone facility other than a VPT to BSNL and Reliance Infocom Limited 24794 and 21459 numbers of RCPs respectively.

(v) Subsidy support has been provided from USO Fund for about 90,00,000 rural household Direct Exchange Line (RDELs) installed in the country prior to 1.4.2002 as per rules.

(vi) Subsidy support towards provision of individual Rural household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) installed after 1.4.2005 in the eligible 1685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) to M/s BSNL, M/s RIL, M/s TTL and M/s TTL (MH).

(vii) Subsidy support shall also be provided for the rural DELs installed in the eligible 1685 SDCAs in the country during the period 1.4.2002 and 31.3.2005.